

MINERAL INSPECTION FORM
NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST'S

Project:	South Fork Clearwater Dredges	Operator/Claimant:	Poe/Erlanson/Rice/Stickley/Monahan/Etc.		
Geographic Location:	Township: 29N	Range: 7E	Section: 22, 25 and 28		
	GPS: Latitude:	Longitude:			
Date/Time:	7/22/2015 / 10am-2:30pm	Day of Week:	Wednesday	Weather:	Warm and Sunny
USFS Personnel on Site:	Clint Hughes				
Designated Operator's Rep. on Site:	Shannon Poe is the person doing most of the talking				
Others on Site:	Paul and John Ratley, Dan Cederburg, and approximately 15 to 20 others				
Date POO Received/Authorized:	None received			NOI Date:	NA

Additional Information:

	YES	NO	NA
Mining or exploration work	x		
Following approved plan		x	
Reasonable and sequential		x	
Erosion control adequate		x	
Stream protection adequate		x	
Water quality satisfactory		x	
Wetland Present	Ukn		
Reclamation and bonding		x	
Reclamation work adequate		x	
Reclamation work timely		x	
Bond amount adequate		x	

	YES	NO	NA
Timber removal		x	
Following approved plan		x	
Safety and fire control	Ukn		
Following approved plan		x	
Resources protected		x	
State or Federal Agency contact needed	x		
Road construction and use	x		x
Following approved plan		x	
Maintenance adequate		x	

Narrative Report:

I was informed by Brooks Beegle (LEO) on July 20th that he counted 11 dredges in the water on the South Fork of the Clearwater River. Prior to July 20th a Notice of Noncompliance (NONC) letter was drafted for both District Rangers that have authority over the South Fork of the Clearwater River and both of these letters were signed on July 21, 2015. On July 22nd I left the office with approximately 20 NONC letters for the Red River Ranger District and five NONC letters for the Salmon River Ranger District. Eight NONC letters were handed out but many of the dredgers would not take a letter and many would not even say who they were. Mr. Shannon Poe did most of the talking at their main camp at mile post 39 and recorded our interaction. I in turn recorded them, on two different occasions, as they were recording me and although the video is quite poor the audio is decent. At no time throughout the day did I see any IDWR recreational dredge permits being displayed, therefore it is unknown if they in fact have this permit.

Mr. Poe tried to intimidate on many occasions and is very good at interpreting case law and regulations incorrectly. For instance he states that U.S. V. Shumway and U.S. V. Hicks are both Supreme court decisions that conclusively prove that you cannot create a significant disturbance with a dredge or hand tools, which is not true and I cannot find that these cases actually went to the Supreme Court. He also states that the USFS does not have authority over their operations and that what they are doing is subsurface and therefore managed by the BLM. They have also threatened to sue me personally and I would suspect that anyone that was to visit and inform them of their noncompliance would receive the same threat of being sued personally.

Specific sites as labeled on the map and on pictures:

Site #1: "Rocky Mountain Mining Rights" sign on the opposite side of the river. Yellow pontoons on approximately a 4" dredge (hose size) that was not being operated and there was nobody on site and no vehicles

or camp at this site. Based on this site being associated with “Rocky Mountain Mining Rights” I suspect the dredge could belong to Ron Miller.

Site #2: This site had two dredges working in close proximity to each other and were both 5” dredges, which was confirmed by the dredgers themselves. The dredgers were R.J. Rice (upstream dredge with green pontoons) and Dave Erlanson Sr. operating the dredge with blue pontoons. These two were observed actively dredging with the plume from the upstream dredge mixing with the plume of the downstream dredge. Both of these gentlemen were given a NONC letter (see photos). There were two camps in the pullout along the road only one of which belonged to these dredgers. The occupants of the second camp are unknown but Erlanson indicated that it belonged to another dredger.

Site #3: This is the location of the main AMRA camp with many vehicles with the AMRA logo on the side. This site also had two dredges working in close proximity to each other and were both estimated to be 4” dredges. Also on this site was a highbank/dredge that was cutting in pretty close to the bank. The dredgers/highbanker are unknown since by this time nobody was giving their names. One of these dredgers was observed actively checking the sluice of his dredge (grey pontoons) and was located upstream of the dredge with red pontoons. I met with Shannon Poe and many other miners at this site most of which was filmed by the members of AMRA. They were informed of their noncompliance but none of them would give any information such as address and name for their NONC letter, although Paul and John Ratley eventually did (see photos).

Site #4: This dredge was located just upstream from Mile Post 39 and was being actively operated by one man and one woman and was positioned near the opposite side of the river. I did not cross the river and no NONC letter was handed to these dredgers at this time.

Site #5: This site had two dredges working in close proximity to each other and were both estimated to be 6” dredges, which likely had 5” nozzles. The upstream dredge with blue pontoons appears to belong to Shannon Poe and the owner of the downstream dredge with dark grey pontoons is unknown. These two dredges both have dual engines but could not confirm the combined horsepower on each dredge. Both of these dredges were very close to the bank of the river which transitions right into the slope and foundation of Hwy 14. This is the dredge location where Shannon Poe was working when several other dredgers informed him that I was at the Mile Post 39 camp. This site had a short pull out next to the road with a single parked flat black truck. No NONC letters were left on the vehicle. Gas cans were being stored right next to the river.

Site #6: This dredge was located on the opposite side of the river. It had green pontoons on approximately a 4” dredge (hose size) that was not being operated and there was nobody on site. There were no vehicles and no camp at this site. No NONC letters were left at this site.

Site #7: This site had one 5” light grey dredge with dual engines (combined horsepower not confirmed). The dredger was Morgan Monahan along with his teenage son. Mr. Monahan was observed actively dredging and was given a NONC letter. There was no place to camp along the road and no actual pullout but they did have their truck pulled to the shoulder and safely off the road.

Site #8: This site had one 4” to 5” green dredge with three people on the opposite bank of the river. One of the dredgers was John Stickley and a second dredger is possibly Michele M. Ross-Stickley. They were not observed actively dredging but I did give them a NONC letter. This whole interaction was videoed by Mr. Stickley and I in turn videoed them. My video is poor quality but the audio is decent. There was no place to camp along the road and no actual pullout but they did have their truck pulled to the shoulder and safely off the road.

Site #9: This was Dan Cederburg’s camp just east of FS lands on BLM and no dredges observed at this site. Mr. Cederburg said he just put his 5” Grey Keene dredge in the water earlier in the day and had just got to the site from California. I gave him a NONC letter but did not observe him in the water or find the location of his dredge. Also at this site was a car and camp site that Mr. Cederburg said belonged to the female that was with

John Stickley, which could possibly be Michele M. Ross-Stickley although there were two women at the site of the Stickley dredge.

Site #10: This was a single highbanker site that was approximately 15 mile down river and is not marked on the map below. The location of this site is T29N, R5E, Sec 30, SWNE. The name of the claim is “Bridge” and the BLM LR2000 report shows the claimants are Ray Baker, Shannon Baker and Tark Meyer. This operation was drawing water from the river into a large hole, which they were using to suck gravels into their highbanker before discharging the excess water higher up on the bank. There was nobody on site and I did not observe them mining but the disturbance has been photographed and is shown below. A NONC letter was left under their wiper blade and it had been removed later in the day as I revisited the site. This was actually the first site that I observed for the day but labeled it Site #10 for convenience since it was far removed from the rest of the operations on the river. Also, this claim is well within the Power Site withdrawal for this river and the BLM has yet to contact the FS to ask if the FS requests a Public Hearing under the Mining Claim Rights Restoration Act of 1955.

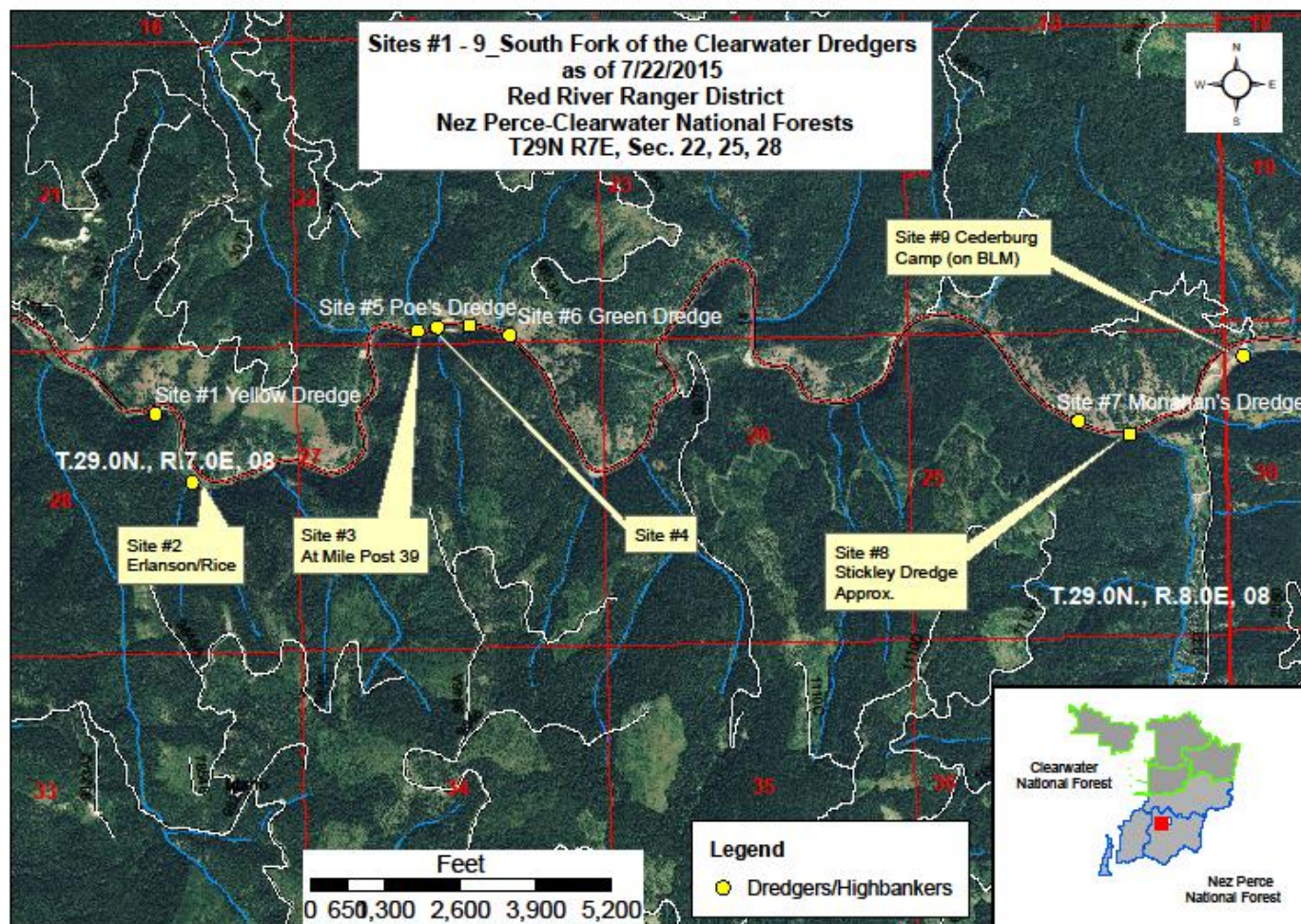
Description of Items Not In Compliance:

There are no approved Plans of Operations nor have there been any POOs submitted for suction dredging on the South Fork of the Clearwater River. The 1987 Nez Perce National Forest Management Plan states in amendment 20 (Pacfish amendment) that a POO and bond is required on the South Fork of the Clearwater River. Additionally, we are under a court order to consult with FWS and/or NMFS on streams/areas that have ESA listed species. There are several operations that are close to the banks and could potentially compromise slope stability, while some dredges are quite close in proximity and are possible in violation of the IDWR permit and are definitely in violation of, and in need of, the EPAs NPDES General Permit so that they can come into compliance with the Clean Water Act. Gas cans next to river.

Follow-up action needed:

Contact all Federal and State agencies that are associated with suction dredging to inform them of the dredges along the South Fork of the Clearwater River. Work with upper management, OGC, WO, and others to get direction as to where we go from here.

Photographic Record and Description:



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July 29, 2015, Clint Hughes

Site #1, T29N, R7E, Sec 28



Yellow dredge with no operator on site - Owner unknown



Yellow dredge with “Rocky Mountain Mining Rights” sign in the background

Site #2, T29N, R7E, Sec 28



Previous years disturbance?



Rice (green dredge) and Erlanson's (blue) dredges



Dave Erlanson Sr. actively dredging



Dave Erlanson Sr. actively dredging



R.J. Rice actively dredging



Truck at Erlanson/Rice camp



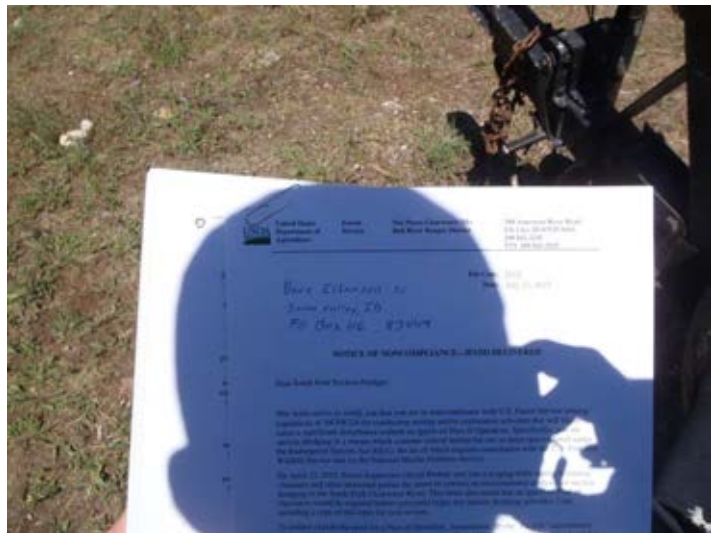
Camp trailer at Erlanson/Rice camp site



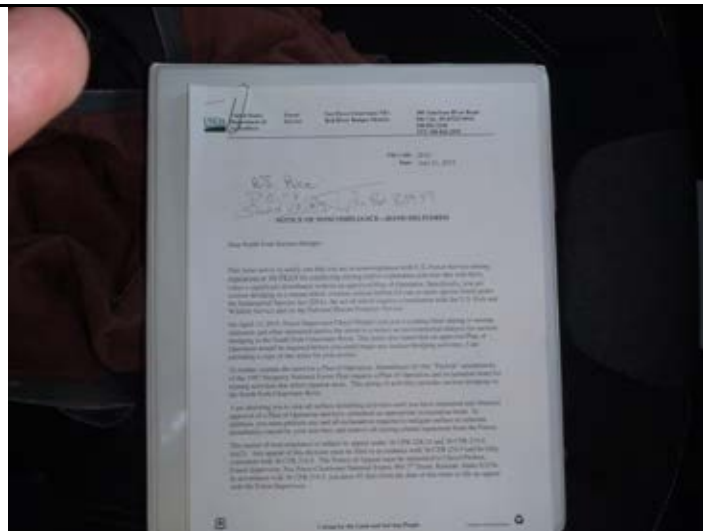
Boat at Erlanson/Rice camp



Boat at Erlanson/Rice camp



Picture of NONC letter w/Erlanson's address



Picture of NONC letter w/Rice's address



Second camp at Site #2 – Owner unknown

Site #3, T29N, R7E, Sec 22



Location of main camp at Mile Post 39 looking downstream. AMRA sign in the background



Unknown dredger checking his sluice



Unknown dredger checking his sluice



Unknown dredger at his dredge



Unknown dredge/highbanker actively mining



Second dredge at Site #3 - Owner unknown



Second dredge at Site #3 - Owner unknown



Dredgers at Site #3 from the road



Shannon Poe's license plate



Poe's vehicle on left, RV owner unknown



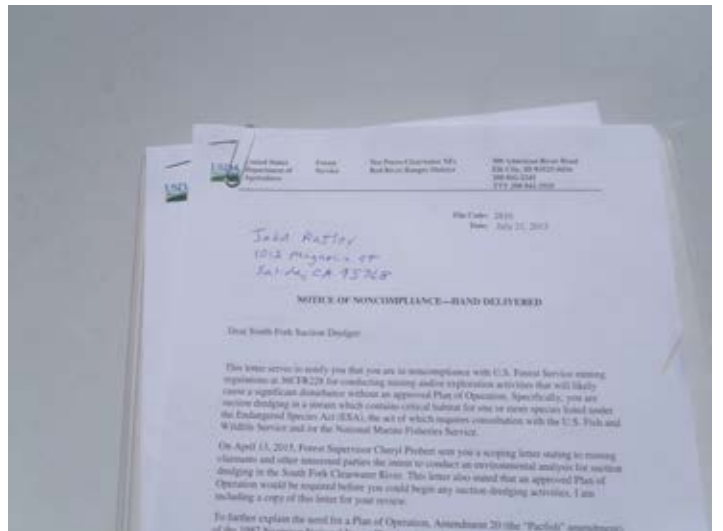
Main AMRA camp



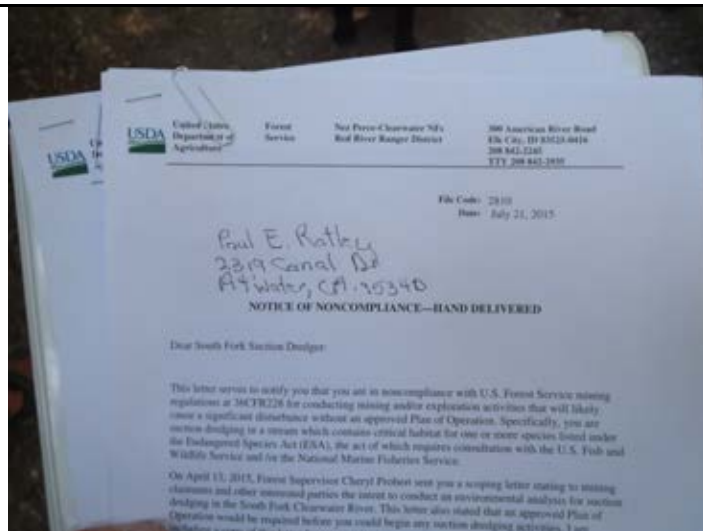
Main AMRA Camp



AMRA truck – owner unknown



John Ratley NONC letter – dredge location unknown



Paul Ratley NONC letter – dredge location unknown

Site #4, T29N, R7E, Sec 22



Unknown dredgers just upstream from MP39

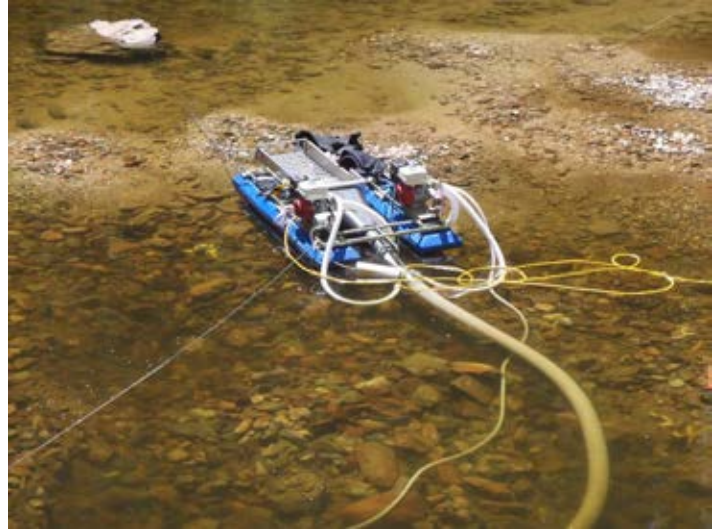


Unknown dredgers just upstream from MP39

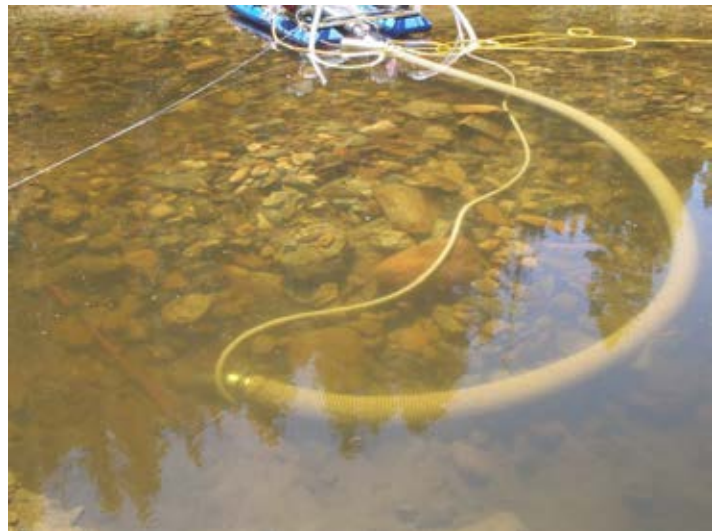
Site #5, T29N, R7E, Sec 22



Shannon Poe's dredge undercutting bank that supports Hwy 14



Shannon Poe's dredge undercutting bank that supports Hwy 14



Shannon Poe's dredge undercutting bank that supports Hwy 14





Gasoline being stored next to shore



Second dredge at Site #5 also dredging right up to the bank of Hwy 14, dredger unknown



Close-up of second dredge



Vehicle parked above Poe's dredge, second dredge is in background far left



Sasquatch 2 looking down river toward Poe's dredge (not in picture)

Site #6, T29N, R7E, Sec 22



Green dredge with no operator on site - Owner unknown

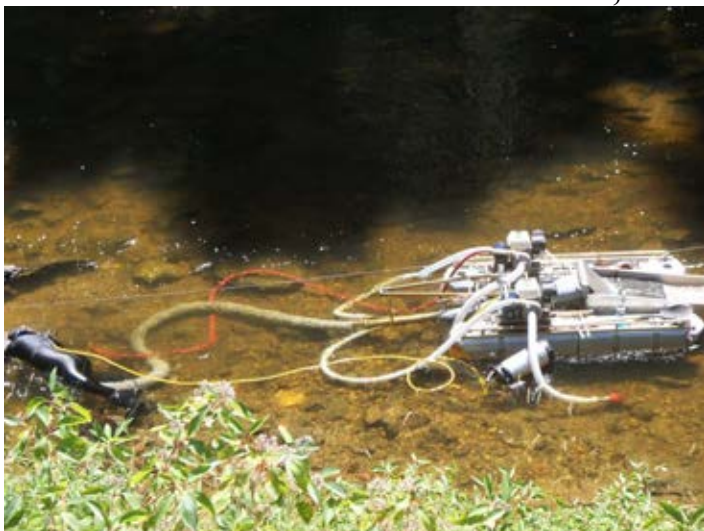


Sourdough #2 claim post looking up river towards green dredge. Adjacent to Sasquatch 2 down river



Zoomed view of green dredge and top of claim post

Site #7, T29N, R7E, Sec 25



Morgan Monahan dredging



Mr. Monahan getting ready to shut dredge down



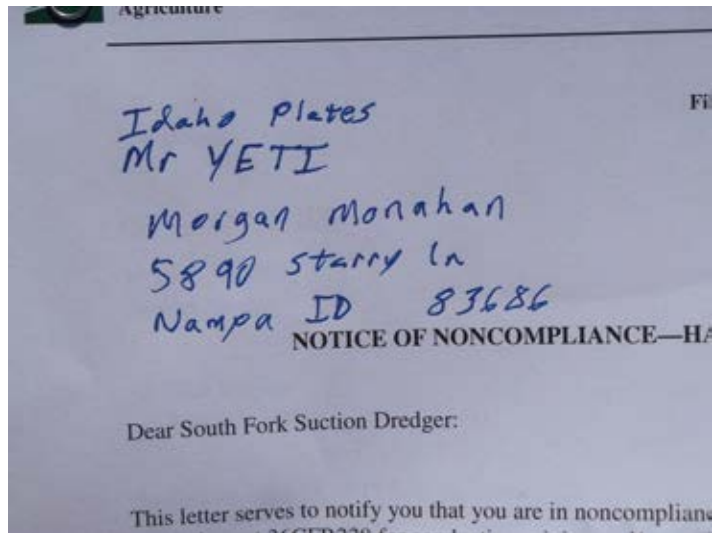
Morgan Monahan



Morgan's son



Truck parked at Monahan's site



Picture of NONC letter w/Monahan's address

Site #8, T29N, R7E, Sec 25



John Stickley's dredge from the road



Stickley's dredge

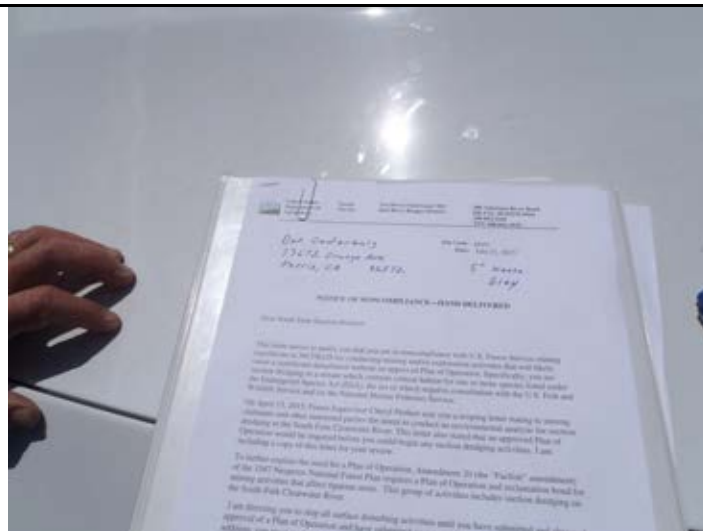


John Stickley and possibly Michele M. Ross-Stickley (co-claimant of "South Fork Placer")

Site #9, T29N, R8E, Sec 30 (BLM)



Dan Cederburg's camp just east of FS on BLM, no dredges observed at this site



Dan Cederburg's NONC letter with his address

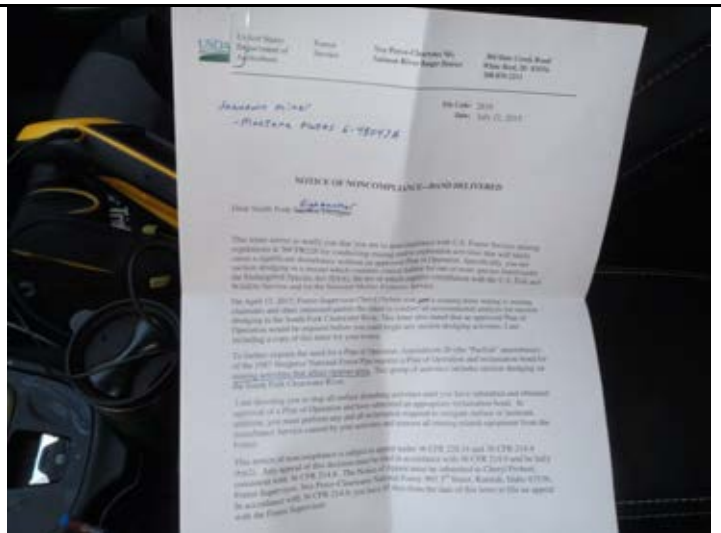
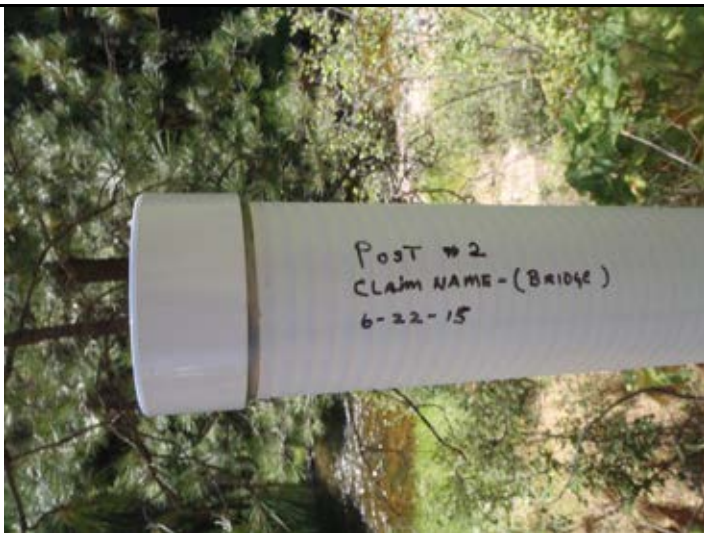


Potentially Michele M. Ross-Stickley's camp per Dan Cederburg ("John Stickley's female friend")

Site #10, T29N, R5E, Sec 30, SWNE



Claim post on opposite side of river



BLM report shows claimants are Ray Baker, Shannon Baker and Tark Meyer



NONC left under wiper blade



Unoccupied camp



Truck and camp at mining site



Dredge hose and nozzle



Highbanker dredge combo



Hoses to keep water from flowing back to river



Highbanker dredge combo



Water pump

Date of Next Inspection:	No additional inspections are scheduled for this year unless I get the go ahead from the Forest Supervisor.		
Signature:	/s/ Clint Hughes	Title:	Geologist